



INTRODUCTION

The San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (the Bay-Delta) is a region of critical importance to California. It is the hub of the state's water supply system, and an area of unsurpassed ecological importance for salmon, migratory waterfowl, and a host of other plants and animals. California's growing population has put increasing demands on the Bay-Delta and today it is an area beset by problems. Since 1995, state and federal agencies with regulatory or management responsibility in the Bay-Delta have been working together to solve the region's problems in a balanced way that offers benefits for all interests. The product of this effort is the CALFED Bay-Delta Program – a comprehensive effort to solve the interrelated problems of the Bay-Delta.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

CALFED is working to solve problems in the legally defined Delta, Suisun Bay (extending to the Carquinez Strait), and Suisun Marsh. The geographic area for developing possible solutions includes a much broader area that extends both upstream and downstream of the Bay-Delta. This solution area is comprised of much of the state, and includes the tributary watersheds of the Bay-Delta and the Central Bay.

SETTING

The Bay-Delta is the largest estuary on the West Coast, a haven for plants and wildlife, supporting over 750 plant and animal species.

It supplies drinking water for two-thirds of the people in California and irrigation water for over 7 million acres of the most productive agricultural land in the world.

The Bay-Delta is the hub of California's two largest water distribution systems – the Central Valley Project (CVP) operated by the US Bureau of Reclamation, and the State Water Project (SWP) operated by the California Department of Water Resources. In addition to these two major projects, over 7,000 permitted diverters receive water supplies from the watershed feeding the Bay-Delta estuary. These diversions, along with

